

## Fact Sheet:

# Partnership Project – Jobs by 21

### DESCRIPTION:

The Legislature has authorized funding to DDD to create partnerships with school districts and other state and local offices to ensure that students leaving high school have access to gainful employment.

Young people with developmental disabilities are entitled to educational programming through age 21, depending on individual need and objectives identified in the required Individual Education Plan (IEP). In Washington, funding is forecast in the education budget. The years from age 16-21 are identified as transition years and achievement of specific student objectives are connected to those years of schooling. A post-school employment plan is a required outcome of the transition program. Schools must also measure and report on the effectiveness of the post-school employment plan. Effectiveness is defined by whether, upon matriculation, the student is admitted to a university, community college, vocational or technical school, has a job, or is connected to an employment support agency. For people with developmental disabilities, counties are specifically designated by contract to provide employment support to working age people at age 21.

### PURPOSE:

- To capitalize on the requirement that students with disabilities have a post-school employment plan and the counties' responsibility to provide employment support to working age people with developmental disabilities.
- To establish a statewide connection between DDD, the counties, and schools to enable students with developmental disabilities to make the most productive use of the supports available in schools to achieve employment or successful pathway to employment upon matriculation.
- To ensure that counties and school districts effectively and collaboratively use the supports and data sets available from the WorkForce Board, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Employment Security Department, the Center for Change in Transition Services, and other stakeholder agencies to achieve successful post-school employment outcomes for transition age students with developmental disabilities:
  - Job market (current and future);
  - Workforce trends (current and future);
  - Job training and preparation opportunities statewide; and
  - Post school outcome reports.
- To develop and implement an evaluation protocol that will measure the success of the project, including such data points as jobs achieved, hours worked, and wages earned. Subsequent to the initial planning year, the evaluation results will be an integral part of the ADOSA/DDD GMAP presentation.

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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### **SERVICES:**

- Early connection of students with developmental disabilities to workforce support systems;
- Increased job experience and training for transition-age students;
- Use of job market and workforce trends to assist students in preparing for employment at matriculation;
- Coordination of resources from state and local workforce entities in the objective of employment for transition students;
- Communication of successful student achievement of jobs;
- Publication of the results, including, at a minimum, data on jobs achieved, hours worked, and wages earned; and
- Dissemination of information and provision of technical assistance promoting best practices statewide.

### **CURRENT EFFORTS:**

To date, several counties have been able to start collaborative working relationships with their local schools, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, WorkSource centers and supported employment providers so that students begin planning and preparing for employment as early as possible. The intent of the collaboration is for students involved to either have a job and be working by age 21 or have a strong work experience portfolio that enables employment agencies to identify job options sooner and more effectively after graduation. As a result of these collaborative efforts, young people with severe disabilities have improved opportunities to go to work sooner.

### **WAC/PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:**

[WAC 388-850-010 through 050, County Plan for Developmental Disabilities](#)

Visit the DDD Internet website at <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/index.shtml>